

WOODLANDS

Woodlands refer to the County's natural wooded areas, especially those that exhibit bur oak/hickory association. Woodlands in this context do not refer to the numerous stands of trees that are dominated by elm species, redcedar, mulberry, etc. This classification of woodlands excludes riparian areas (discussed previously) that also exhibit woody plant species, including trees.

IMPORTANCE:

- Woodlands are a reference to the natural history in the County
- Woodlands in the County mostly consist of native species
- Woodlands in the County help define the transition of tallgrass prairie to the eastern woodlands of North America
- Woodlands provide important functions for wildlife, including habitat and movement corridors
- People are attracted to woodlands
- Woodlands provide a source of shade and quiet
- Woodlands are important visual features

HUMAN IMPACT/THREAT:

- Woodlands are easily degraded
- Woodlands are sometimes removed for agricultural production
- Woodlands are often removed in advance of urban development
- Human activity and urban impacts can interrupt succession in woodlands

PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

- Existing woodlands should be documented
- Regulatory protection should be developed for woodlands
- Appropriate management guidelines should be developed for woodlands
- Restoration of degraded woodlands is desirable

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LEGEND



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